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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Leading Causes of Death/Diseases Disqualifying Insurees/Medical Research/Soviet Hospitals.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The leading cause of death in Iran is and has always been infantile mortality. [redacted] no official statistics in Iran, but [redacted] from 50 to 60% of all deaths occur from child birth to when the child is three years' old. Next in order of causes of death are tropical diseases, such as, Malaria, Typhoid, Dysentery, and Hook-worm. Of the latter, real progress has been made in stamping out Malaria. The program for stamping out Malaria was started by the government seven years' ago. Progress at that time was slow; then with the advent of the Point Four Program for four years, real strides have been made, so that today Malaria is not considered a serious cause of death in Iran.

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2. Diseases which disqualify potential insurees, [redacted] are the same as in the UK and US. [redacted] some of the life insurance companies operating in Iran, co-insure with companies in the UK and the US. Diseases falling within this classification are:

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Tuberculosis, Cardiovascular, Advanced Nutritional, Malignancies, Serositis of the Liver and Blood.

3. There are no health projects financed by insurance companies in Iran; insurance companies do help the Ministry of Health in gathering certain statistics. Research projects now going on in Iran, [redacted] are:

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Malaria, Trachoma, at the University of Tehran; and Rabies, and Plague at the Pasteur Institute in Tehran.

4. Russian medical teachings, personalities, books or periodicals, have had absolutely no influence upon the practice of medicine in Iran.

5. French medicine in the past has had the most influence on Iranian medical practices. Since World War II, diagnosis and treatment as practiced by US medical profession have had the most influence on the medical practice in Iran. When one thinks of the average age of death in Iran as being between 40 and 45 years, and the average age of death in the US, in excess of 65 years, it is time for a change in the practice of medicine in Iran. These statistics and

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other information pertinent to the practice of medicine in the US is becoming very well known by the Iranian people.

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- 25X1A 6. There is only one Soviet hospital in Iran. It is located in Tehran. [redacted]  
[redacted] It is operated by the Soviet Red Cross, but [redacted] know it is nothing more than a center for spies. It consists of three or four buildings, two or three stories high. The doctor in charge lives in one of the buildings. The second floor of each building is given over to bedrooms. There are several single bedrooms, and the wards have from six to eight beds in them. In this hospital there are five or six Soviet doctors and 15 to 20 nurses who are Russian-Armenian. The lower class of help is Iranian. The personnel of doctors changes quite frequently. The equipment in this hospital is old, and much of it is inoperative. The services given are inferior to the services given by the Iranian Hospital. This hospital does have a fairly good X-ray, Physical Therapy and Dermatology Department. Patients are required to pay for their services, which in some cases exceed the charges of the Iranian Hospitals. The Soviet hospital at Tabriz was closed in late 1952.

- 25X1A 7. The Red Lion and Sun, the Red Cross of Iran, has as one of its many duties the gathering of blood. Blood generally is given voluntarily, but in some cases the donor, if destitute or in need of some necessities, is compensated. Transfusions are becoming more and more extinct, and hospitals are calling for blood reserves more and more so there is a necessity for the Red Lion and Sun to gather more blood. Local campaigns have been initiated in various cities and provinces for the collecting of blood during the past six months. More efficient ways for collecting, storing and distributing the blood are now being studied.

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